

Parent Information evening

Lunch time sessions

- The lunch time sessions are every Thursday at 1.45 in room 58. In the rare occasion that this may change, students should make sure they check the D of E information board in Maths. Form tutors will also be informed of any change to these sessions.
- If more than 3 sessions are missed, I will be talking to the student about catching up on the missing knowledge and training and if it continues I will be phoning home about the suitability to continue the Duke of Edinburgh

The three sections

The 3 sections to be completed before the expedition are

- Physical
- Volunteering
- Skill

Two of these should take 3 months and the third 6 months. It is entirely up to the student which one they want to continue for longer than the others. It is also worth saying if they are already learning an instrument then this can be continued for the skill, just like any other club. A sport cannot be used as a skill.

EDofE

- The online system is key for the completion of the D of E. It holds all plans and all evidence that the centre needs to approve the award at the end. By now all students should have completed the program planners for all 3 sections and should have begun to complete the allotted time to complete these sections.
- If a student has not completed the 3 program planners by February half term, I will be discussing whether I should be taking them on the practice expedition.

Final expedition

- The final expedition will take place 22nd/23rd September.
- It will be very similar to the practice expedition in the way it is run, there will just be less teacher supervision during the walks.
- The cost of this will be approximately £35-£45. This is so we can pay for the assessors needed for this expedition.
- You will get more information about this expedition in July and September.

Practice expedition

- The practice expedition is on 12th/13th May
- It is in Ardeley (near Stevenage). About 2 weeks before the expedition you will receive directions on how to get to Church Farm campsite with a narrowed down itinerary.
- The cost of this expedition is £30. This covers campsite costs, travel expenses, renting of equipment and the upkeep of the schools equipment.

Kit List

- Attached to the letter is a general kit list for both the practice and final expedition.
- A bivvy bag is a bright orange survival bag and can be found in all outdoor shops. We have a spares of these so there is no need to buy one unless it comes with the other equipment.

Boots

- These 2 days will be difficult for the students, especially on their feet. They will require proper walking boots to complete this and their final expedition. I would suggest buying these as soon as possible as it takes a while for the boots to be broken in properly. With the booklet they each received at the start of the D of E they were issued with a Cotswold discount card (15%). However, you may find better value at Go Outdoors.

Mobile phones

- There is to be no use of any electrical equipment throughout both expeditions. However, a few students will need mobile phones for emergency use. These will be put in an envelope and sealed. If at any point there is a need for the phone they can use it but if the envelope is opened and it has not been used for contacting us then they would fail a condition of the final expedition and they would have to repeat the expedition.

Kit you can borrow

- We give out all cooking equipment and fuel. Plates and cutlery are not included in this.
- Tents - you can borrow tents from us, but we do not have many. If you or any family have a 'light' tent that they can use, please let me know on the lending form.
- Waterproofs - can be borrowed but again can be found for £5 per item in Go Outdoors as high end is not needed.

Kit you can borrow

- Sleeping bags - these can be borrowed but you can get basic ones fairly cheaply.
- Roll mats - foam mats that make the ground slightly more comfortable, the same as a sleeping bag we can get some but they are fairly cheap for a basic mat. No air beds, they are very heavy and take up room in a rucksack.
- Rucksack - these need to be bigger than a school bag. We usually suggest 45-60 litre bags for a trip like this.

Kit to buy


- Boots (definitely)
- Food-absolutely no pot noodles
- First aid kit - only a small one is necessary. To create your own it, needs a triangle and a long bandage, a few plasters and some disinfectant wipes. If your child is likely to need hay fever relief please pack that as well. We will not be able to provide pain relief for your child.
- 1 or 2 litre plastic water bottle (can just be bought from a shop)

Food

- They will need 2 lunches, 1 dinner and a breakfast. Both the dinner and the breakfast need to be substantial meals and include an element of heat. They will also need energy boosting snacks, like nuts and dried fruit.
- As the expedition are during warmer months please keep in mind they will be carrying this food in the heat and so not to pack food that will go off.
- No pot noodles (not substantial enough) and no tins (too heavy)

Returning borrowed items

- If you have borrowed any items, they need to be returned to school the next day as they need to be taken back to the equipment lenders that evening.
- Tents - please ensure they are dried, clean inside and all poles and pegs are with it.
- As it is such a quick turn around, can all items be returned to me personally so I can organise which items need to go to which place.

A map of Gloucester, England, with a red pushpin stuck to it. The word "GLOUCESTER" is visible in the center of the map. The map shows various streets, landmarks, and geographical features in different colors.

Any questions?